

Japanese Prince Hitachi and his wife stayed three days on the island as part of their tour to Chile. The Japanese government has donated US\$2 million to conserve the patrimony of Rapa Nui.

El Mercurio de Santiago, 29 September 1997

- ACCORDING TO *EL MERCURIO DE VALPARAISO*, 18 October 1997, the City Council of Hanga Roa has petitioned for the removal of Mayor Pedro Edmunds Paoa "for notable abandonment of responsibilities" and "multiple irregularities and arbitrary administration of the municipality". The petition was presented before the Electoral Tribunal at Valparaíso by Antonio Oneto, attorney representing Alberto Hotus, Marcelo Pont, Claudio Cristino, Enrique Pakarati, and Rodrigo Norambuena.

- A RECENT COMMUNICATION from the island expressed anxiety over the problem of mixing alcohol and driving. Young islanders are increasingly involved in nasty accidents that are drinking-related. One such casualty recently resulted in the amputation of a leg. Those who are caught up in drinking episodes are generally young, out of school, and unemployed. Older residents complain of brawls and other transgressions, and voice concern that tourists will be offended or antagonized.

- A FIRE THAT RECENTLY BURNED OVER 50 HECTARES at Rano Kau volcano and blazed for three days is said to have started from the slash-and-burn practice of islanders who periodically set fire to the grassland. It has been suggested by CONAF that grazing areas on the island be limited in order to avoid damage to the cultural patrimony of the island. At least three distinct places separated by 500 to 1000 meters show indications of intentional fires set to burn off dry grass and thus promote new vegetation for grazing animals. The fire entered the crater at three sectors. Last July, 500 saplings of *mako'i* were planted there, thanks to a grant from PNUD, a UN program of development. The news report was not clear as to whether or not these small trees survived.

CONAF chief, J.M. Ramirez, said that a strong wind, scarcity of water, and limited personnel hampered efforts. He noted that because islanders do not have access to other land for grazing their animals, they use National Park land. Governor Hey said that blame for the fire cannot be placed as yet, but that everyone should protect the environment and the ecology.

El Mercurio de Santiago, 14 September 1997

- SPECIAL WALKING TOURS OF EASTER ISLAND are being plugged on the Chilean mainland; advertisements suggest hiking as a way to see the island. Getting around on bicycle is also being touted. The Chilean press (*El Mercurio de Valparaíso*) points out that one can get to know Isla de Pascua by auto in a couple of days but, on a bike, the adventure "can be metaphysical". In case you can't guess, the news item gives ten reasons why one should bike on Easter Island: (1) the road is "the destiny" and time unimportant; (2) the road acquires a significance of its own; (3) there is satisfaction in arriving at one's destiny; (4) one can talk with locals; (5) the bumpiness connects one to the land; (6) one can reach places a car cannot; (7) at day's

end one feels well; (8) biking removes stress; (9) a broken bike can be repaired but not a broken car; and (10) it implies a life that is "chaste and pure."

[Bikes are a recent phenomena on the island, seen only in the past few years; the ruts that formerly served for roads were hardly the stuff for bicycles. But now roads are improved and bikes are becoming more common. However, that track around the north coast has to be an acid test.]

- LIGHTS ARE BEING INSTALLED AT THE SOCCER FIELD. Floodlights, placed on 60 foot towers, will light up the entire area, presumably for night games.

- AN EARTHWATCH TEAM, under the direction of Dr Christopher Stevenson, has discovered a large number of sites inland from Ahu Heki'i (La Perouse Bay). Among these are a number of basalt quarries and reduction areas where *toki* were being manufactured. They also identified large repositories of raw material for the making of *toki* but are not sure at this time where these boulders came from. We hope to have a full report in our next issue of RNJ.

NEWS FROM THE EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION

- The Biblioteca Mulloy in Viña del Mar now can be reached via email: BiMulloy@intelchile.net

- Mr. Enrique Klein, son of the late Otto Klein (1901-1986), who in 1947 founded the highly regarded School of Decoration at the Santa Maria University of Valparaíso, has generously donated nearly a hundred books and articles from Prof. Klein's personal library to the Biblioteca Mulloy in Viña del Mar, Chile. Several of the books, long out-of-print, were not in the Mulloy Library and are an extremely valuable addition to the collection. There are also original drawings and photographs made by Prof. Klein in the preparation of his classic book, "*La Iconografía de la Isla de Pascua*". Mr. Klein kindly donated other valuable books as well as artifacts, both from the continent and from Rapa Nui, to the Fonck Museo de Arqueología.

The Foundation is extremely grateful and thanks Mr. Klein profusely for his generosity.

- The EIF welcomes two new members of the Board of Directors: Brigid Mulloy and Mark Blackburn, both of Hawai'i.

REPORT ON THE SOUTH SEAS SYMPOSIUM

THE OPENING RECEPTION of the South Seas Symposium was held at the Hilton Hotel in Albuquerque where participants and guests were greeted by Barbara Hinton, President of the Easter Island Foundation, and Governor Jacobo Hey Paoa, of Easter Island. Rapa Nui wood carvings were presented with thanks to Mary Dell Lucas and her staff at Far Horizons who were in charge of logistics for the conference.

Guests at the opening ceremonies were enchanted by talented Mahani Teave (Chavez) who entertained with several selections on the piano. A gifted Rapanui, 14-year old Mahani

is realizing her dream of becoming Easter Island's first concert pianist. She is the recipient of a Roberto Bravo Foundation Scholarship and attends the Conservatorio de Musica, Universidad de Austral in Valdivia. Since 1994, Mahani has enchanted the public by performing top-level solo concerts, and is known in Chile as the "Pianista Pascuense". She is unique for for no one else from the island has ever become a pianist. Mahani's friends and teachers are trying to obtain a concert piano for her. Anyone wishing to help out, may contact the Easter Island Foundation.

Following Mahani's presentation, conference attendees were treated to a spirited performance of Rapanui music and dance by Jimmy Crossan and his dance team who had traveled to the conference from the island.

Governor Hey presented EIF President Barbara Hinton with a *kavakava*, and she responded with some of the EIF's most recent publications. Hey also gave carvings to Albuquerque's Mayor, Martin Chavez, and Guillermo Anguita, Chilean Embassy Chief of Staff.



EIF President Hinton presented Dr Thor Heyerdahl with a book, in thanks for donating the proceeds of his public lecture to the EIF to help pay travel expenses for students and scholars who attended the South Seas conference.

THE PAPERS PRESENTED at the conference spanned a wide variety of subjects from *rongorongo* and linguistics to lithic technology and settlement patterns to art. Two-hundred and forty-three persons attended the sessions, and sixty-eight papers were presented. The presented papers will be published in a single volume, and will be available from the Easter Island Foundation after January 1, 1998.

A POWER OUTAGE left conference participants temporarily in the dark. According to the theory that anything that CAN go wrong, will go wrong, a massive power outage on campus blew all the electrical circuits in several of the University of New Mexico buildings, including the lecture halls where the conference papers were being presented, and word came

down that these could not be repaired for a week. Comments were made to the effect that someone must have brought along an *aku-aku* from the island. A shift to nearby auditoriums was made and the conference proceeded smoothly.



The final party featured several performances including a spirited local Hispanic dance group and a performance by Paloma Hucke of Easter Island. The Rapa Nui dance group (shown here) headed by Jimmy Crossan electrified the audience with some exuberant (and sexy) Polynesian dancing.

THE MUSEUM RECEPTION AND THE EXHIBIT of contemporary Easter Island wood carving was a highlight of the conference. The exhibit, *Ingrained Images* brought together Rapa Nui carvings, photographs of the island and its people--including images of Tapati festivals, and a video made by guest curator Joan Seaver Kurze who organized the show. The exhibition also showcased Mark Blackburn's special collection of historic photographs and artifacts.

The reception featured Rapanui dancers who entertained with chant, *kai-kai* and body painting.

THE AMERICAN AIRLINES RAFFLE was won by Katie Rorrer of the anthropology department of the University of Oregon. Governor Hey also donated a case of pisco for part of the raffle, and these gift bottles delighted those who won them: the pisco was in special commemorative *moai*-shaped green-bottles complete with *pukao* cap.

MORE THAN 300 PEOPLE, both conference attendees as well as local residents, attended Thor Heyerdahl's public lecture which was held on the UNM campus.

A RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED in regard to conservation, following the session titled "Lithic Resources and Use of Stone in Oceania":

—Given the internationally-recognized importance of cultural resources in stone represented on Rapanui (Easter Island) and their rapid deterioration due to environmental factors, land-use practices, and impacts from tourism:

—It is Resolved:

That the participants of the Fourth International Easter Island Conference (South Seas Symposium) encourage and request that the Republic of Chile, UNESCO, and other international organizations improve funding to conserve the island's World Heritage cultural resources.

One area in specific requiring attention is researching the application of appropriate chemical treatments to the stone images and other exposed stone artifacts.

This Resolution was approved in Plenary Session of the Conference on 8 August 1997.